The Chicago Tribune.

VOLUME 25. CHICAGO, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1872.—SIX PAGES. NUMBER 195.

WASHINGTON.

Majority and Minority Reports of the Southern Investigating Committee.

The Organization, Government, and Object of the Ku-Klux Klan.

Newly-Made Citizens Vs. Unmade Citizens Under Probation.

Passage of a General Amnesty Bill Recommended by the Majority.

Substance of Morrill's Amendment to the Chicago Relief Bill.

Text of the Law Under Which the Arms were Sold to the French Government.

What the Land-Grabbers are Doing in the Present Congress.

The Nomination of Charles Hale, as Assistant Secretary of State, to be Withdrawn.

Special Despatch to The Chicago Tribune.

CHICAGO RELIEF BILL.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18.—The Associated Press sent Mr. Ferry's amendments to the Chicago Relief bill instead of Morrill's, which was really adopted in Committee, which allows a drawback for one year on stone, brick, building stone, lime, cement, glass, marble, timber, lumber, hewn or sawed, and in the rough, tin or clapboards, slates, cut nails, iron, especially made and adapted for the construction of buildings.

THE STEAMBOAT LAW.

The Steamboat Committee are still hard at work to obtain such reasonable changes and amendments in the Steamboat law as the necessities of steam commerce require, but meet with opposition from unexpected quarters. It is believed that Mr. Crawford, formerly Supervising Inspector under the Steamboat law, is now acting as special agent of the Treasury Department, is using every effort to defeat all amendments of the new bill, and as he is in no manner interested in steam commerce, either as owner, manager or officer, nor as an agent of the Government, it is supposed by steamboat men that he is acting under the direction and pay of the paternites. The bill has been referred to a sub-Committee, who are very actively engaged on it, and it is now hoped will report in a week or ten days.

LOUISVILLE CANAL.

The Committee on Commerce have agreed to report a bill appropriating $300,000 to continue work on the Louisville Canal. When it is reported to the House an effort will be made to increase the $300,000, so as to provide for finishing.

AMERICAN TRACT SOCIETY.

The annual meeting of the American Tract Society was held in the Congregational Church this evening. Speaker Blaine presided. The report for the past year from donations and legacies was $19,321.19; expenditures for charitable purposes, $113,016 65. Addresses were delivered by Rev. Frederick E. Shearer, of San Francisco; Hon. Columbus Delano; Hon. H. Maynard, and others.

THE SALE OF ARMS.

It is expected to-night that Messrs. Conkling and Edmunds will speak to-morrow on the sale of arms, independent of matters named in Sumner's preamble. The legality of sales of new and serviceable ordinance stores is to come up for discussion. The following is the full text of the law under which the sales were made, and Messrs Morton and Conkling contended that it covers the case:

Be it enacted, &c. That the Secretary of War be, and he hereby is, authorized to cause to be sold, *at such time or times at public sale, on thirty days' notice*, or at private sale, as he may deem most advantageous to the public interest, old cannon, arms, and other ordnance stores now on hand, or which the Government which are damaged, or otherwise unsuitable for use in the military service, or any of the States of the United states, and to cause the proceeds of such sales, after paying all proper expenses of sale and transportation in the case of sales to be covered into the treasury of the United States.

Approved July 31, 1861.

It is claimed on the one hand that this law covers the whole ground, and on the other side that not new and serviceable arms could be sold; and certainly no cartridges manufactured, since the law refers to what was then in possession of the Department, the words "now in possession," having been inserted as an amendment when the law was first proposed. Among other letters sent to Washington at the time he went abroad in connection with the French, was one from Senator Spooner requesting Minister Washburne to help him.

NORTH CAROLINA SENATORSHIP.

The Senate Committee has decided against Abbott's claim to a seat from North Carolina. It is understood that Carpenter will make a minority report in his favor. Abbot had two votes in Committee. The other is reported to be Morton.

LAND-GRANT BILLS.

Fifty-six land-grant bills are now pending in Congress, twenty-six being in the House. The total number of acres embraced in the grants is considerably over 200,000,000, or a greater area than Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, and Iowa combined. The advance of this grand total has passed the Senate on Friday, and will go to the House to-morrow.

THE LABOR-REFORM PARTY.

It is reported here that the Workingmen's Convention, called to meet in Columbus on the 26th inst., will not make nominations or adopt a platform, but will await the action of the Republican and Democratic Conventions.

OBITUARY.

Ms. Josephine L. Griffing, long well known at the West and in this District in connection with the anti-slavery cause, died here this morning. By the authority of the Secretary of War, the usual honors will be rendered her funeral. She has also had charge of sending freedmen to various places in the North. She has also had charge of sending freedmen to various places in the North. She has also had charge of sending freedmen to various places in the North

THE CHICAGO LAW INSTITUTE,

tory of One of Our City's Most Important Institutions.

The Inception, Growth, and Destruction of the Chicago Law Library.

Over Seven Thousand Volumes Burned in the Great Fire.

The Work of Restoration---1,600 New Books Already Secured.

List of Some of the Most Notable Contributions.

The Chicago Law Institute was organized in the year 1857, by a few prominent lawyers of this city. It was organized under a special law passed in February of that year, and is the oldest association of law men ever formed here. The act of incorporation has been from time to time amended as circumstances required. The principal object of the organization, which had a rather uncertain existence for many years, was to collect a library. Not till 1860, or still later, could the Law Institute be called self-supporting. The gentlemen, to whom the greatest credit is due for the inception of the scheme, are Messrs. John M. Wilson, Elliot Anthony, Judge Manierre, and Van H. Higgins.

A NUCLEUS OF A LIBRARY WAS FORMED by the individual contributions of members, by appeals to State authorities when here, and by membership fees, then insignificant. As soon as books enough were collected to warrant the proceeding, a room of convenient size was obtained in the Court House, the Board of Supervisors granting the indulgence on the consideration of receiving as a quid pro quo a reasonable amount of legal advice, free of charge. The terms of admission to the Institute have not varied from the first, and to this time they remain at $20 per year, payable at the end of the year, but are usually not Liquidated until the whole amount should be liquidated. As a perennial means of support, there has been, beside the admission fee, a yearly assessment of $15. As an inducement to new membership, the rule regulating this assessment has been changed for the present, to those desiring to connect themselves with the Association. The Institute has never interested itself in establishing courses of lectures, having contented itself with furnishing legal pabulum in the more thoroughly digested shape of bound volumes.

RAPID PROGRESS.

After 1860 the progress of the library was rapid. About that time, Mr. Julius Rosenthal, the present incumbent, became Librarian, and the material collected was all classified and looked after. On the 8th of October, 1870, there were upon the shelves of the Institute 4,681 volumes by actual count. On the same date in 1871 there were 7,000 volumes, valued at $30,000. The collection was in many respects perfect and valuable. A recent report of the Executive Committee says: "It embraced a nearly perfect series of American reports of all the reports of the English Courts, and many of the most valuable Irish and Scotch reports; all the law journals of the United States and England; most, if not all, the modern textbooks published in this country and England, and also the old English digests, together with a large collection of rare and valuable works on the civil law. While the Institute has been aided by many generous gifts from personal and professional friends, yet most of the library had been procured with its own funds, derived from the sale of, and assessments levied upon its members. The library was the property of the shareholders, and freely used by them and their assistants; but the use of the work was not the fault in the payment of their dues, and was free to all the Judges and lawyers living outside Cook County, either in the or any other State. It had always been kept in rooms in the Court House furnished by the County of Cook. Convenient to all of the State, Federal and Supreme Courts while holding Court in this city; and was in charge of a librarian and assistant, one of whom was always in attendance. The annual value for 1870 was divided among different companies, as follows: five thousand each in the Lumberman's, Merchants', Firemen's Mutual Insurance Company companies, all established in the city of Chicago, and organized under charters granted by the State of Illinois.

"Besides the library, the Institute had, on the 8th day of October, 1871, $1,319 59 in the hands of its Treasurer, and owed only about $250 for all purposes."

THE LIBRARIAN.

The library has been extremely fortunate in possessing such a Librarian as Mr. Rosenthal, a good lawyer, an excellent linguist, and a man of the most liberal and generous spirit. The collection of rare and valuable works made for this library from time to time have been commended as indicating rare discretion and judgment, and every year preceding the fire was about 500 volumes, among which were a full set of Privy Council Reports, the English and Irish Jurist, all of the celebrated criminal trials, many works on the civil law once belonging to the library of Chancellor Kent, with his autograph and private remarks, etc. The library was freely consulted and used by members of the bench and bar of the different States, and Great Britain, and Canada, and The Judges of our own Supreme Court expressed their repeated gratification at the completeness and richness of the collection. Not only in the groundworks of jurisprudence like Glanville, Bracton, Britton, Fleta, Fortescue, all Reports of Supreme and Inferior Courts, and Digests, and all the Digests and most of the Statutes, all the text books of any note cold and latest editions, English and American, and all the Reports and Lords Reports, all the other English and Irish Reports in original and excellent American reprints, and in fact everything that could be found in the Department on Bankruptcy complete—all works in the English tongue on the Civil Law, a full and rare collection of Admiralty and Maritime English and American Constitutional Law and of political science, valuable Parliamentary Reports, Cyclopedias, Encyclopedias, Treatises upon the Ecclesiastical Law, full set of Law Journal Reports, many and the latest works upon Medical Jurisprudence, and Dr. Francis and John M. Wilson's munificent present of the Statute Laws of Illinois under her Territorial as well as Statehood Government, the department of law pamphlets, important Congressional publications, were part of the library, but also the complete works of Bentham, Jeremy Bentham, Toullier, Pardessus, Merlin's Repertoire, a rare and valuable edition of the Corpus Juris and the treatises of Domat, and Story on the commencement of legal Bibliography and Bibliography, etc., etc., were on hand, and all used by practitioners, students, and Judges, and the number of books in the hands of members at the time of the fire was very small, most of them buried with the dead in the ruins of the fire.

THE GREAT FIRE DESTROYED ALL THE BOOKS, records, vouchers, and papers of the Institute, with all of the files and reports of the Supreme Federal Courts established and held in Chicago. Everything was lost with the few exceptions made above, and a few reports, and a few of text books, all the lawyers of the city, with one or two exceptions, lost their private libraries and papers, although a few of them saved a few sets of reports, principally of this State, and of the Supreme Court of the United States. The annual meeting of the Institute was held on Monday, the 4th of November, just four weeks after the fire, in the ruins of the old Court House. The attendance was about as usual on ordinary occasions. The assembly resembled a convention of early Christians in the Roman catacombs. Barney Smith occupied the chair, there being room for all were standing. There was considerable danger of the walls falling upon the concrete floor, and the fearful tread of this city, but the business was transacted, in spite of one or two stampedes of frightened members toward the nearest insurance in the topography of the Institute, and the lawyers interested in the association had finished their weeping, and, undismayed, proceeded to the matter in hand manfully. The talk was all manly and earnest. It was determined that there should be no halting, but that

THE INSTITUTE SHOULD GO ON,

and the library should be made as good and better than before. The Finance Committee made a report embodying some of the facts that we have already given. The Librarian, Mr. Rosenthal, also made a report, containing pertinent allusions to the past history of the library, and thanked various donors who had kept even their pronounced contributions, and sound advice in regard to future purchases.

OFFICERS.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: Elliot Anthony, President; J. A. Mann, First Vice President; Joseph H. L. Shorey, Second Vice President; Julius Rosenthal, Librarian; O. H. Horton, Treasurer; C. H. Sturges, Secretary; B. W. Pulling, Asst. Sec'y; O. Gerdy, R. F. Ayer, H. N. Hibbard, Thomas Hoyne, Henry Lindenberg, and W. Le Moyne, E. F. Sawyer, Directors.

CONTRIBUTIONS.

The following credit, given to persons who contributed to the library immediately after the fire, is from the report of the Executive Committee at the meeting: "The thanks of the Institute are due to all these generous donors. Our thanks are also due to all those gentlemen in this city and elsewhere, who have taken the trouble upon themselves to solicit donations for our library. I would specially mention the names of Messrs. Callaghan, house of T. & W. Johnson & Co. of Philadelphia; Little, Brown & Co., Boston; Stevens & Haynes, London; Thomas Walker, Editor of the *Legal News*, and the Albany *Law Journal*. Judge John M. Wilson's warm appreciation and zealous efforts in behalf of the Institute in this city deserve our particular acknowledgment. It should be also stated in connection herewith, that while David Murphy, Esq., of New York, was first over whose books came in, Judge John M. Wilson, of this city, was the first one who announced to us his donation of nearly a complete set of State Trials."

THE SITUATION

was the more difficult that out of $30,000 insurance scarcely anything was realized. Active measures were at once taken to reinstate the library by appeals to outside parties. The report of the Librarian presented at the annual meeting is exclusively devoted to this subject. An appeal prepared by Hon. John M. Wilson was printed, and sent to the bar of this country and to England. A committee of Correspondence was appointed by the Executive Committee to apply to the Chief Justices and to the Bar of the different States for reports and digests. The answers to the appeals have been generous beyond precedent. Most of the New England States have contributed as commonwealths, and the bar of Massachusetts, and the bar of New Hampshire, the State of Rhode Island, and Kay Brothers of Philadelphia have magnificently. South Carolina, Georgia, and Arkansas, and recently Southern Illinois and have regarded the appeal. Contributions are expected from Rhode Island and Missouri, by Legislative authority. From the bar of California in behalf of that State. He definite expectations are entertained of gifts from any other Southern State. Governor Wallace, of Virginia, an old member of the Institute, has been several times appealed to in behalf of the library, but has not as yet signified any intention of action in the matter.

LIST OF CONTRIBUTIONS.

The following list contains the contributions, with the proper credit attached to each:

From Governor Hoffman, of New York, have been received 21 volumes of statutes; also, Thompson's Assessor's Manual, Thompson's Supervisor's Manual, Cook's Manual of Highways, Index to Documents and Laws of New York; also, a full set of New York Reports, comprising about 330 volumes.

From Connecticut have been received 19 volumes of Reports, Compilation of Statutes, 1 volume of Revised Statutes, and 13 volumes of Private Laws; also Colonial Records from 1689 to 1716,—two volumes.

From Pennsylvania, the generous gift of Kay Brothers, law publishers, come 47 volumes of Pennsylvania Reports.

From Hon. C. B. Farwell, M. C., 13 volumes Public Documents, Raymond's Mineral Resources of the West, Land Office Reports, etc.

From Terrance Bolingbroke, Governor John C. Brown and General C. P. Thruston, 11 volumes Reports, 16 volumes Session Laws, 6 volumes Constitutional Convention Journals, House and Senate Journals, etc.

From ex-Governor Koerner, of Illinois, 14 volumes of rare English and American Reports. The titles are as follows: Shoales & Lefray, 3 volumes; New York Cases in Error, 2 volumes; Bosanquets & Puller, 3 volumes (very rare); Swanston, 1 volume; Campbell; 1 volume; Tyler, (Vermont) 2 volumes.

From John H. Ellis, through Wm. E. Furness, Massachusetts Statutes, 14 volumes; Reports Election Cases, 1 volume; Massachusetts Convention, (1820) 1 volume; Report Special Commission on Fisheries, etc.

From the State of Vermont, 9 volumes Reports, General Statutes, 1 volume; Session Laws, 4 volumes; Journals, 3 volumes; Documents, 1 volume; Legislative Documents, and House and Senate Journals.

From Mrs. Hazlett, of Philadelphia, by E. W. Blatchford, Angell on Watercourses; Sergeant on Attachment, Troubat & Haly's Practice, 3 volumes; Haly on Distress, Wilson on Partnership, Blue Laws of Connecticut, Lee's Capture in War, Hall's Admiralty Practice, Kent's Commentaries, 4 volumes; Archbold's Pleadings, 2 volumes; Dunlap's Forms, Spirit of Laws, Montesquieu, 2 volumes; Jay's Political Economy, Hoyt's Forms, Hamilton's Congress, Phillips, Curran, Sto., speeches; Chatham, Horsley's etc., speeches; Hopkinson's works, 3 vols.; Bacon's works, 3 vols., Grattan's works, 4 volumes; State papers, 4 volumes; Legal Cases, 4 volumes; pamphlets, 74 volumes.

From Emery Washburn (the author) Real Property, 3 vols.

James Schuler (the author) Domestic Relations.

From Maine, Reports, 36 volumes; Laws and Resolves, 41 vols.; Virginia Digest of Reports, 2 vols.; Revised Statutes, 1 vol.; House and Senate Journals; Geological Reports, etc., 17 vols.

From Ohio, Reports, 21 vols.; Revised Statutes, 2 vols.; Digest of Reports, 1 vol.; Statutes at Large, 4 vols.; Geological Surveys, etc., 4 vols.

William B. Kelley, M. C., from Philadelphia, sends 300 volumes, many of them rare English Reports, and all of unusual value.

From Professor Langdell, of Harvard University, from 1625 to 1869, English Statutes, 109 volumes, covering 24 years.

From South Carolina, seven volumes of Reports, and a few volumes from Georgia and Arkansas.

Iowa, Indiana and Wisconsin have sent very nearly full sets of their Reports, besides House and Senate Journals.

From S. S. Fisher, the distinguished patent lawyer of Cincinnati, come three volumes of Reports of patent cases, etc.

From Hon. Alfred Conklin, of New York, about 36 volumes of legal text books.

From T. Bisbop sends 4 volumes of his own works.

Other contributors have been David Murphy, of Mt. Carmel, Illinois; Canfield & Co., of Philadelphia; John Henry Hall, of New York City; D. W. Edmond, of Newburg, N. Y.

THE LIBRARY AT PRESENT CONTAINS about 1,500 volumes, of which only about 350 have been purchased. There is in the treasury of the Institute at present between three and four thousand dollars. Of this, $1,000 is to be immediately expended in text books, and the greater part of the remainder in United States Reports. The purchases, together with expected contributions, will increase the number of books to nearly 5,000 volumes before the first of July next.

LOCATION.

The library has been for some time safely ensconced in the new City Building, in rooms kindly given by the City Government. The rooms are on the second floor, in the northwest corner, and are large, high, well-lighted, and generally well adapted to the purposes designed. The room is 20x36 feet. Adjoining it is a smaller apartment, which will be used by the Superior Court, until needed for library purposes. The rooms are put in by the city authorities, the only expenditure of the Institute being for chairs and tables. The appointments of the building seem neat and convenient, and amply sufficient for present purposes. If the other public institutions of Chicago show the same degree of permanency, the Institute need have very little fear for the future.

HYDE PARK MATTERS.

Meeting of the Town Trustees—Estimates for this Year's Expenses—Resolutions Adopted—Fifty-first Street Sewer.

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the town of Hyde Park was held at the Town Hall on Saturday afternoon.

TOWN TAX LEVY.

The resolution to levy a town tax of $70,000 having been rescinded, the Finance Committee prepared and submitted a detailed statement of estimates for town purposes for the ensuing year, amounting to $121,400, and recommended that stringent economy be observed in all the departments; that the police force be discharged; that the salaries of town officers be reduced 25 per cent, and that the Trustees serve without compensation.

The report was taken up item by item, and a new schedule made to include only indispensable items, the aggregate was reduced to $71,000, by having everything that could be postponed to another year.

Whereupon the report was placed upon file, and a motion made to levy a tax of $70,000 for town purposes for the year 1871.

IMPROVEMENTS MADE.

The reports of the Superintendent of Public Works showed that there had been 30 lbs kept open and in repair 24 miles of open and 34 miles of covered drains; 2 miles of plank sidewalks laid; 1½ miles of macadamized, 1½ miles of paved, and 7¾ miles of gravelled roads in the town of Hyde Park.

The following petitions were reported back, to be laid over until further action is required by necessity:

Thomas C. Morgan's complaint of Fifty-first street sewer.

Petition of Hogue's explanation of the order of Oct. 31, 1871.

J. A. Davel's complaint against Hyde Park Gas Company.

J. Y. Scammon for the grading of Madison avenue.

Cornell and others, to widen Fifty-first street.

Walker and others, to open Evans avenue.

The following resolution was then offered:

It was resolved that Tucker & Sherman and C. Knowlton have permission to withdraw their petition for the grading of Forty-fourth street, the assessment is levied and collected on said street.

Also, that the Police pay-roll be taken up and warrants ordered for each separate amount to each member of the force.

Also, that new warrants be issued to G. De Cost, $1,000, and to Tucker & Sherman for $2,175.95, payable Nov. 1, 1872.

Also, that permission be granted to those persons who have been engaged in filling up Stewart, and those who may hereafter associate with them to lay down pipes in streets and alleys to conduct the water from said well; said streets and alleys to be left in good condition, and pipes to be laid under direction of the Board of Trustees.

Also, that permission be granted to Messrs. Smith, to vacate Greenwood avenue, between Blocks 6 and 7, Egandale.

Also, that permission be granted to Mr. Cahwood, for ice-houses on Michigan avenue.

FIFTY-FIRST STREET SEWER.

Estimates reported by S. S. Greely, surveyor of work done on Fifty-first street sewer, showed the cost of work done and materials on hand to be $7,682 09; amount required to complete the work according to contract, $49,150.48, which could be increased to $60,000 to cover all contingencies pending on the amount of water and quicksand to be encountered. The contractors, Beatty & Barker, made statements and estimates, and proposed to take $19,000 for work and damages, and abandon the contract.

Referred to the Committee on Finance.

After the usual presentation and reference of bills, the Board adjourned to Saturday, March 2.

THE CITY IN BRIEF.

Irish Literary Celebration.

A special meeting of the general Committee of the Irish Literary Association was held yesterday afternoon in Justice Scully's office. The Secretary read a letter from Jeremiah Mahoney, Esq., Principal of the Wells school, in which that gentleman accepted an invitation to read an original poem at the ball and banquet of March 18. The reports of several Committees were ordered for next Sunday, and the meeting adjourned.

Personal.

R. H. Talbott, of the *Evening Post*, is lying ill at his residence, No. 875 West Washington street.

—Dr. Ben. C. Miller, Superintendent of Public Charities, returned home from the East yesterday morning.

—Manning's Minstrels took their departure for Louisville last evening, accompanied by Jimmy Cusick as business manager.

—If nothing occurs to prevent, Washburne will warble this evening in opera at the Globe Theatre.

—Josh Billings will tell the people of the South Division, this evening, what he knows about Hoboken, at the Michigan Avenue Baptist Church.

—The Allemonia Fire Insurance Company, of Cleveland, instituted a suit in the Circuit Court for $500 against John R. Walsh, Esq., President of the Western News Company, on Saturday evening, laying its damages at the modest sum of $20,000. The occasion of the difficulty was the publication of a letter by Mr. Walsh in the Post-office recently, in which he accused the Company of swindling its old policy-holders, whose property was destroyed by the great fire.

Miscellaneous.

A meeting of the Ellsworth Zouaves will be held to-morrow evening at No. 32 South Canal street, for the purpose of electing officers for the ensuing year.

Election of Delegates.

ATCHISON, Kan., Feb. 17.—The Republican Representative Districts of this county to-day elected delegates to the State Convention—all strong Grant men. The Representative Republicans of the County districts unanimously passed resolutions instructing delegates to support none but Grant men for delegates to the National Convention.

Political Meetings.

ST. LOUIS, Feb. 17.—Numerously attended Democratic meetings were held in the different wards of the city to-night for the election of members of the County and City Committees. The Republicans also held meetings on Monday night to elect delegates to the State Convention, to be held at Jefferson City on Feb. 29.

Obituary.

BALTIMORE, Feb. 17.—Thomas H. Morris, son-in-law of Reverdy Johnson, and a prominent citizen of this city, died yesterday.

—Charles Blade, of Buffalo, one of the oldest baggage masters on the New York Central Road, has made within the last twenty-eight years 4,388 trips, travelled 1,468,000 miles, and has never received an injury;

THE LAW COURTS.

The Piute Mining Company---Liability of Its Stockholders.

Specific Performance—Case Against an Express Company—The Aldermanic Trials.

Circuit Court.

THE LIABILITY OF STOCKHOLDERS.

Judge Booth had before him on Saturday, in the case of James Dunne against James Steele, a question of the liability of stockholders in corporations to respond in damages for services rendered the corporation. The demand was against a stockholder in the Piute Mining Company, by Mr. Dunne, to recover for services alleged to have been rendered in the capacity of Secretary. The main case had been decided before, and judgment rendered, and the question was to re instate the record. New judgment was rendered for $618.50. The Court, speaking of the condition of the pleadings, remarked: "Here was a Company organized,—the Piute Mining Company. It went into operation. Its officers were elected, and services rendered by its Secretary, and any amount of debts might have been contracted if the Company was in credit. It existed for a period of two, three or four months, and then upon a mere accident, as it were, the fact of its corporate seal having been engraved with the word 'silver,' inserted, and blank certificates of stock printed in the same way; this original Company, the Piute Mining Company, by a sort of dissolving-view process, passes away, and dissolves into sad besomes. The Piute Silver Mining Company, and the argument is that it has sloughed off all its liabilities, as a snake would cast off its skin. I don't think that that could be done; I think that the substantial interests of these original stockholders are shown with sufficient certainty to my mind to fix their rights and duties."

NOTICE.

The trial calendar for the present term, which commences on Monday, has upon it 365 causes.

Superior Court.

SPECIFIC PERFORMANCE.

A bill to enforce the specific performance of an alleged contract of sale of the east half of Lot 11 and the west ledge of Lot 12, Block 89, School Section Addition, fronting Charles street thirty feet, and running back 120 feet to an alley, was filed in the Court by Joseph G. Williamson for the use of Arthur S. Hawse against James Redican.

EXPRESS COMPANY CASE.

An action of assumpsit was commenced against the United States Express Company, for which demands is made for $4,000, by Henry and Leopold Oppenheimer, Frederick Mileman, and David Marx.

BREACH OF COVENANT.

An action, covenant broken, was commenced by Joseph Levy against Patrick Caraher, the damages being laid at $2,500.

Criminal Court.

THE ALDERMANIC CASES.

The regular order of business for Saturday in the Criminal Court, over which Judge Farwell, of the Circuit Court, is presiding for the term, was the consideration of the petitions of Aldermen Whittaker and McCauley, each for a change of venue in the cases of the People of Illinois *vs.* Whittaker and McCauley, each for a charge of conspiracy in bribery. The basis of the motion in each case is the existence of such a prejudice in the minds of the people of the county against the general subject of bribery and corruption according to individuals charged with malfeasance in office, that the parties charged can not receive that fair and impartial trial in the County which is guaranteed to them by the Constitution and laws.

After counsel had waited some considerable time, it was announced that Judge Farwell had gone to Evanston, and would not return until the first half-hour. That not being due until late in the afternoon, the argument went over.

County Court.

ADMINISTRATION.

Christopher Galitz was appointed to administer upon the estate of Frits Galitz, under bond of $1,100.

WILL PROVED.

The will and codicil of the late James Sanders were probated, and letters testamentary issued to Asa D. Jansen and James Boggs, under bond of $4,400.

THE WOMAN PREACHER.

The Views of the Rev. Henry Ward Beecher.

From the New York Sun, Feb. 12.

There was a stir in Plymouth Church last evening, and many hundreds of people were present for his text the 34th and 35th verses of the fourteenth chapter of First Corinthians:

Let your women keep silence in the churches; for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience, as also saith the law.

And if they will learn anything, let them ask their husbands at home; for it is a shame for women to speak in the church.

"Recent events," said Mr. Beecher, "in a church in this city, have interested the whole community. A woman, who is an ordained preacher—was asked to speak in a Presbyterian Church, and she was in every way qualified to do so. For permitting this woman to preach, the pastor was tried, and he pastor was brought before a special meeting of the Presbytery, and his conduct passed upon. He was directed not to do so any more. The simple ground of objection was that Paul in the New Testament women are forbidden to preach and teach. He said he proposed to speak of the particular command laid down by the Apostle Paul, and not women preaching and teaching publicly. There are those who regard this utterance as final and conclusive, and there are those who admit the inspiration of the Apostle Paul, but regard this command as local, national, and transient. It was in force only in a particular place, for a particular time and purpose. And the reasons for it existed no longer out from that of the first ages. The family does not stand as it did two thousand years ago. Women were far more equal to men socially and intellectually now—indeed, in some nations. They were not then excluded from public function. He spoke of the patriotic glory of women who had stood up in those times of Puritan persecution, and eulogized their wise administration.

Women were forbidden to teach in the synagogue. Technical education women were not allowed at the Jewish Rabbinical College. I do not know the work imposed by the Church. It was eminently proper that they should speak out (after a pause) and in the meeting. I know where is nothing in the Gospel that limits the rights and duties of women in this regard, excepting in Corinthians; Paul's letter to Corinth, and when he wrote it. In those circumstances they were not directed to views, but to the Greeks. He commented on the characteristics of the two nations—the Every and ignorant, and the Athenian, with its love of freedom and culture of the Hebrews. A tuous woman in Greece was, he said, a domestic drudge, while a woman of education was a public character. Therefore it was that Paul forbade them to teach in the Church—in Greece. [Mr. Beecher smiled as he added, "Would that he had put that in."] If he had only known how stupid people are in our day he would have done so. [Laughter.] Mr. Beecher spoke of the noble pursuits of the women of Athens, and of the noble work they should be degraded and placed in the same catalogue with the women of ancient Greece. "I do not say that I scorn or condemn those who look at these things in a manner unlike my view, but I marvel at the circumstances which could make a wise man so foolish. [Laughter.] I honor Brother Cuyler because he had the courage to invite Miss Smiley to his church."

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Do you suppose it was wrong for women to braid their hair or wear jewelry? I inveigh against the fashion. The world of creation could not keep an ordinary woman from following the fashion. Women have risen from the degradation of the past; we are not barbarians now. A man, mother, wife, citizen, she has multiplied functions, and is able properly to perform. Are you going to put back the clock—to turn the tide of civilization? If women are to be in the pulpit, and show themselves fitted for the work, they have a right to speak. Where can we find more noble examples of woman's cultivation and goodness than among the Society of Friends? Mrs. Smiley has extraordinary ability. She is

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Your pastor defended his conscientious course in this matter on three grounds: (1.) The act was done in the exercise of a Christian fellowship with true believers, and for the purpose of benefiting immortal souls. (2.) It was not forbidden in our Presbyterian Book of Government. (3.) The work was not, in my judgment, nor in the judgment of millions of God's true people, forbidden by the inspired Word. After nearly two days of able debate, the vote was taken on the formal discussion of a proposed resolution of censure upon your pastor, that resolution was finally withdrawn. It is a matter for sincere congratulation that this proposition to censure was thus quietly dropped. For we as a Church are under all necessity for erecting a contest to remove what we should regard as an invasion of our liberty in Christ. And the fair name of Presbyterianism is relieved from what, in the judgment of many, might have been regarded as a reproach.

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The congregation listened to the reading of this statement with the most eager interest, and at its conclusion a general rustle, as of relaxation from constrained silence and attention, was heard throughout the house, accompanied by a deep breath as if relieved of a burden that sounded very like the irritation of an outburst of applause. But if that was what was intended the purpose was promptly abandoned, the expression only reaching the extent of a suspicion.

A Sermon by Miss Smiley.

Miss Sarah F. Smiley, the Quakeress preacher, who is raising such a furore in this vicinity at present, preached at the Friends' meeting house of the Orthodox Friends, at the corner of Washington and Lafayette avenues, Brooklyn. To say that the meeting house was filled but inadequately conveys the truth. It was filled half an hour before the appointed time, and standing room within the building was not to be obtained fifteen minutes before the services commenced, compelling hundreds to go away and seek religious edification or the satisfaction of curiosity elsewhere. The preacher's bench was filled by the venerable Elias Hicks and other Quaker notables, but indescribably overtopping all in point of attention was the tall, slender, and graceful form of Miss Smiley, arrayed in the plain costume of the Society of Friends, consisting of a dress of dark brown material, a black cloth sacque or cloak, a close bonnet, a plain white linen collar, secured with a broad lavender ribbon, black kid gloves, hair combed smooth and plain, and a neat white lace cap. She is a woman of English or Irish birth, and apparently about 40 years of age, stoutly built, with a broad, good-natured face, that is neither pretty nor the reverse. She has a remarkably clear, distinct voice, pronounces with perfect clearness, but with no pretension to oratorical ability, and lights up her countenance as she speaks, with a smile indicative of the leading sunny and pleasant disposition, which, together with her pleasing voice, renders her message attractive and effective. She gave out no text, but commenced her discourse by reciting the 5th verse of the Thessalonians, viz.:

For our Gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance.

From this citation she proceeded to discourse on the power of the Gospel. No sermon that followed was more remarkable for logical force or argumentative skill. It was rather a rambling, disjointed exhortation to saints and sinners alike, delivered with unexceptionable grammatical niceties of utterance, but quite inferior, in a literary point of view probably to any sermon preached in the city last night. Indeed, it is quite safe to say that there are not a dozen ordained and salaried sermonizers starving throughout the country on $900 or $400 per year, who are never heard of outside the limited circles to which their local congregations limit them, fortunately they are only men. Miss Smiley is chiefly indebted to the accident of sex for the fame she has acquired as a Gospel expounder.

After her sermon last night, which occupied an hour in its delivery, she sat down and silence was resumed for a short time, when Dr. Cuyler arose and offered up, in an earnest prayer, at the conclusion of which one of the brothers rose and said:

After what we have heard what better can be left unsaid? Let us pray. Amen. And so the Word of His Grace. The meeting is now out.

The congregation then quietly dispersed.

BINCKLEY REDIVIVUS.

He Proposes a National Popular Convention.

Richmond, Va. (Feb 9), Correspondence of the Cincinnati Commercial.

John M. Binckley, Andy Johnson's Acting Assistant Secretary of State, sent in a memorial to the General Assembly, of Virginia, proposing a National Convention, on the basis of a minority representation, and submitting the question of a change in the Constitution of the United States. It was presented in the House of Delegates, to-day, by Mr. Borland, of Norfolk, and referred. Soon after the close of Johnson's Administration, Binckley turned up in Norfolk, where he practiced law with indifferent success, returning to Washington over a year ago, and finally settling here. Mr. Binckley's petition is not only a curiosity of itself, but also one of the characteristic phenomena of the age. I append a copy of it. You'll vouch to be correct, *verbatim et literatim:*

"To the Honorable, the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Virginia:

"The undersigned John M. Binckley respectfully represents to your honorable bodies that a convention of the people, on the basis of minority representation and with irresponsible sovereignty ought to be legally assembled for the purpose of reforming the Constitution of the United States.

"A notorious evil of the present day is the tendency of organic government in the Republic. Our peoples or of their laws that on a practical agreement of the civil establishment with the general sentiment of society. In our country great and spontaneous innovations, some accomplished, some coming, are working now without express recognition. They are always in advance of any authority or any influence that yokes invisibly with the visible Constitution, thus perplexing Government and people with a sense of double allegiance. This is a most unfortunate and inevitable effect on all the concerns of society, and, above all, making duplicity the working principle of the politician. Hence the impossibility to find in the Gospel that limits the rights and duties of women in this regard, excepting in Corinthians; Paul's letter to Corinth, and when he wrote it. In those circumstances they were not directed to views, but to the Greeks. He commented on the characteristics of the two nations—the Every and ignorant, and the Athenian, with its love of freedom and culture of the Hebrews. A tuous woman in Greece was, he said, a domestic drudge, while a woman of education was a public character. Therefore it was that Paul forbade them to teach in the Church—in Greece. [Mr. Beecher smiled as he added, "Would that he had put that in."] If he had only known how stupid people are in our day he would have done so. [Laughter.] Mr. Beecher spoke of the noble pursuits of the women of Athens, and of the noble work they should be degraded and placed in the same catalogue with the women of ancient Greece. "I do not say that I scorn or condemn those who look at these things in a manner unlike my view, but I marvel at the circumstances which could make a wise man so foolish. [Laughter.] I honor Brother Cuyler because he had the courage to invite Miss Smiley to his church."

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WASHINGTON.

Special Dispatch to The Chicago Tribune.

WOODHULL.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 17.—The following are verbatim extracts from the lecture of Victoria C. Woodhull, delivered last night before the principal theaters of woman suffrage in Washington:

Men and boys impeach the clergy of the United States [Great and continued applause] as a class of parasitical, since the best of them preach that they do not dare to preach the truth, for if they should they would have empty seats—an admission sufficient to consign them to the contempt of mankind and to the hell of which they are so heavily, but whose location they do not know enough, or else, I should be able to determine. I told Carpenter, to-day, when he told me he would be imprisoned because I spoke so of the Constitution, that I hated the Constitution, I would spit on Constitution, I would spit on Constitution, I would put it—I would put it in the nostrils of the people. It is a stench in the nostrils of the people. It is a curse to it. I told him I would raise a petition to it cause before the people. That's why I cause Appianae.] He said I had been in Fort Monroe. I wish I had myself in Fort Monroe. I wish I had myself in Congress there. Now, Woodhull, Congressman said to me, I would spit on Constitution, and let's bridge this over by one year or so, and you will find that all rights of State Carpenter said to day: you are to have your rights at all, you will get them through the Republican party." We get through the Republican party of the United States through the party instead of the people, and I mean to stump every State from California to accomplish it." [Great applause.]

[To the Associated Press.]

AGRICULTURAL CONVENTIONS.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 19.—The Agricultural Convention adopted resolutions urging on Congress additional donations of land for agricultural colleges, and asking for future agricultural conventions to further agriculture by other powers than legislation. President Grant to-day visited the convention, and on entering the room was received with applause. Mr. Loring welcomed him in a brief speech, after which the President mounted the platform.

THE TREASURY.

The Treasury holds as security for National bank circulation, $372,380,450, and for public deposits, $13,488,000. The National Bank circulation outstanding this date is $350,484,946. National bank circulation outstanding, $319,400.

NORTH CAROLINA SENATORSHIP.

In regard to the election of a new Senator from North Carolina, General Ransom, will complicate the case of General Abbott, now claiming a seat as Senator from that State. The Committee on Privileges and Elections is in session to-day. All parties are present, and will state their views to the Committee to-morrow. It is the purpose of the Committee to dispose of the matter to-day.

AMERICAN COMMERCE.

The Commerce Committee of the House has decided to take up the question of a steamship subsidy to-day. Boutwell's bill regarding the transportation of mails by sea, with an amendment or tonnage measure, will probably be the basis of action. The Committee will not consider it. Representation in Congress is to grant reasonable facilities to American lines on the high seas, and to encourage commerce on the Atlantic coast as it is for the present. Something must be done to lay a foundation for the revival of American commerce on the Atlantic, but it is hardly certain what any general measure will be adopted.

SCRIP DIVIDENDS.

Representative Morrill Revenue to-day had one of the parties interested in the New York Central Railroad scrip dividend case that will have his opinion on that question ready to-day for the week.

SENATE IN THE HOUSE.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 17.—The House met for general debate, Blair in the chair. The hall presented a beautiful appearance of empty seats and deserted galleries. A few speeches were made and for public business.

SENATOR RANSOM.

It is stated, on good authority, that the Senate Committee on Privileges and Elections decided, in contrast for the seat in the Senate from North Carolina in favor of General M. E. Ransom, and that General Abbott, who will receive a resolution that General Ransom be admitted to the Senate.

POSTAL TELEGRAPH.

Mr. Sloane, to-day, Mr. Palmer, of Iowa, added a section of postal and telegraph services, to the effect that the Postmaster-General may purchase and the United States, and claiming any such lines in the former than in the latter. He quoted Mr. Morse, to the average amount of messages in the United States per cent of the whole number of messages in Europe social messages amount to more of the whole amount. He argued that the people of this country are too potent to be trifled with, and the action of the people ought to be under the control of the Government.

FOREIGN.

INDIA.

CALCUTTA, Feb. 17.—The body of Earl Mayo, late Governor-General of India, was brought to Calcutta to-day. An immense crowd witnessed the landing of the remains.

SPAIN.

MADRID, Feb. 17.—The Minister held a long conference to-day. There are now hopes that the crisis which exist between them may be settled, and that the anticipated change in the Ministry may not occur.

The Gaceta de Madrid states that the principal leaders of the Carlists, Republicans and Radicals, have agreed to select Castelar for the election to the Cortes.

GREAT BRITAIN.

LONDON, Feb. 17.—At a general meeting of the Electric Telegraph Company, last evening, the proposition for the purchase of the lines was favorably considered, and a proposition having a fourth cable was well received.

Services are being held in London for the services for the recovery of the Prince of Wales, at St. Paul's Cathedral, on the 27th inst.

LIVERPOOL, Feb. 17.—The steamers China and Russia have arrived.

LONDON, Feb. 17.—An American, named Menar, was found stabbed to death last night, by one, who mistook the victim for a relative. Pallington. The murderer intended to murder Pallington, in order to secure a $1,000 which the latter had in his pocket.

LONDON, Feb. 18.—At a meeting held in Kilkenny, in the Young Men's Christian Association, arrangements were made for a grand temperance mass meeting, to be held early the new law, on Saturday evening, Feb. 24. Dr. Ross, the apostle of temperance; J. O'Neil Daunt, Dr. Forrester, P. Kogers, and other well-known speakers are to address the meeting.

GERMANY.

BERLIN, Feb. 17.—A bill has been presented in the Reichstag that German shall be the official language in the conquered provinces of Alsace and Lorraine.

The officer who was sent to Mexico, to inquire into the difficulty between Germany and Brazil, is expected to return with the result of his investigations to Government.

MEXICO.

NEW ORLEANS, Feb. 17.—Passengers from Mexico state that Government is certainly adhering to the constitutional line of succession of Juarez to the Presidency is certain in the downfall of Juarez.

WEST INDIES.

HAVANA, Feb. 17.—The reported capture of Dr. Jose Agramontes, Adjutant General of Quesada, by the Spanish, is untrue. He is with his companions.

FRANCE.

PARIS, Feb. 17.—The activity of the Bonapartist party are intriguing throughout France to secure a majority in the Assembly, creating excitement in Parliamentary circles at Versailles.

PARIS, Feb. 17.—Minister Washburne has received a letter from his Government to negotiate a treaty with France.

The negotiations between France and Spain in relation to a commercial treaty are resumed, and that they will likely lead to a treaty abolishing tariffs.

The court-martial of persons connected with the murder of several Dominican Priests in the early Department of Seine-Inferieure, on Thursday. Three of the prisoners were found guilty of murder, and condemned to death. Nine were convicted of complicity in the crime and sentenced to terms of imprisonment.

The Assembly elected to the Assembly to-day, appeared in that body to-day and created a great sensation. The entry excited extraordinary interest among members.

LOUISIANA.

NEW ORLEANS, Feb. 17.—The Meeting for the Organization of the Reform Party.

NEW ORLEANS, Feb. 17.—The citizens' meeting in Lafayette Square, in response to a call of the Committee of Fifty-one, was large and enthusiastic. Mr. Randolph presided, and addresses were made by H. N. Ogden, R. H. Marr, John Ray, and J. Henri Burch. The following letter, written by John R. Shakspeare, were read, expressing the Reform party of the State:

"That a Convention of the people of the State be called, to meet in New Orleans, on the 1st day of May, to adopt a platform of principles for the Reform party, in conformity to the foregoing resolutions, to nominate candidates for the State offices."

That all men of all parties, regardless of their previous political associations, who favor a change under which this State and city may be honestly invited to co-operate in this movement.

That resolution provides for the appointment of delegates to this Convention. The fourth is:

That the appointment of delegates to this Convention be made by the Provisional Committee on such a basis as will secure a fair representation to the several wards.

That the press throughout the State favorable to reform is urged to give this movement their support.

The resolutions were preceded by a long address setting forth the necessity for a Reform party.

ILLINOIS.

Meeting on the Rhode Island Road—Temperance Mass Meeting.

Special Dispatch to The Chicago Tribune.

JOLIET, Feb. 17.—The stock express freight train, of one last night, broke through a bridge on Rock Island Road, near Pond Creek, and killed 25 cattle into the chasm. All the cattle stopped, rendering a transfer of mails and baggage necessary. The damage is not great, but the train will be detained a part of the day. Two cattle were shipped from here by E. A. Wood.

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OHIO.

Meeting in the Ohio—Brakeman Killed—Close Manufactory Closed.

CLEVELAND, Feb. 17.—The ice in the river commenced moving at 10 o'clock to-night. A large field of nearly all on the lake loaded, have been torn away, and are moving down with the current. The control of the vessels entirely at the mercy of the current was made with a report of a gale of artillery. It is feared that

STATE LEGISLATURES.

ILLINOIS.

Special Dispatch to The Chicago Tribune.

SPRINGFIELD, Ill., Feb. 17.—The proceedings and indifference of the House was partially illustrated yesterday in the action on the Fire Insurance bills. They passed without a symptom of dissent, a section requiring the agents of foreign insurance Companies to list for taxation, at their local offices in Illinois, the amount of their net earnings for the year ending with the last day in May, and other purposes. The amount of taxes to be added to the basis of freight, passenger, and periodicals on hand, the number added, purchased, sold, or otherwise, during the year; the number lost or missing; number of visitors attending; the number of books used on the premises; the number of books in each book; with such other statistics, information and particulars as they may deem of general interest. All such portions of the receipts and expenditures of money, as well as the number of books purchased, shall be verified by affidavit.

SEC. 2. The Council of said city shall have power to pass ordinances imposing suitable penalties for the punishment of persons committing injury to any such library, or the grounds or other property thereof, and for the fine or failure to return any book belonging to such library.

SEC. 3. Any person desiring to make donations of money, real estate, books, or other property for the benefit of such library, shall have the right to vest the title to such property in the Board of Directors of said library, and to be known as the "Donation Fund."

SEC. 4. When any City Council shall have decided to establish and maintain a public library in their town, under this act, the Mayor of said city shall, with the consent of the City Council, proceed to appoint a Board of nine Directors for the purpose, from the citizens at large with reference to their fitness for such office, and said Board must more than one member of the City Council appointed. Not more than one member of said Board.

SEC. 5. Said Directors shall hold their offices for one year, one-third to be appointed annually thereafter, and all vacancies in the Board of Directors, occasioned by removals, resignation, or otherwise, shall be reported to the City Council, and be filled in like manner as the original appointments, and no Director shall receive compensation as such.

SEC. 6. Said Directors shall, immediately after appointment, meet and organize by the election of their number President, and by the election of such other officers as they may deem necessary. They shall make and adopt such by laws, rules, and regulations for their own guidance, and for the government of said library, as may be necessary and expedient, not inconsistent with this act. They shall have the control of the expenditure of all moneys collected to the credit of said library fund and of the construction of any library building, and the supervision, care, and custody of the grounds, rooms, or buildings constructed for the use of said library, for that purpose: *Provided*, that all money received for fines assessed and collected in the several counties of this State, and paid into such books; with such other statistics, information and particulars as they may deem of general interest. All such portions of the receipts and expenditures of money, as well as the number of books purchased, shall be verified by affidavit.

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MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1872.

THE MORRILL AMENDMENT TO THE CHICAGO RELIEF BILL.

Senator Morrill, of Vermont, proposes to amend the Chicago Relief bill by requiring that it specify the various articles of building material which shall be admitted free. This amendment is, of all others, the most fatal to any legislation for practical relief. It is urged that it will be impossible to execute the bill which, as it now stands, is general in its terms; but the Secretary of the Treasury has stated that there was no difficulty whatever in executing a precisely similar law in the case of Portland, that there were no frauds in that case, and none were possible. He gives it as his opinion that the law, as it now stands, is in its proper form. If, however, the Senate shall entertain the amendment proposed by Mr. Morrill, there will be no end to the subject. Once start out with the enumeration of articles to be admitted free, and those not to be admitted, and the Senate will have before it the whole tariff in minature. Mr. Morrill, perhaps, wants to except something which he will insist shall be stricken out; that done, other Senators will follow, and each will claim a like exception. In this way the benefits of the bill will be frittered away, even if any be passed at all. The bill thus amended will have to go to the House, where the whole subject will be considered again, and the result will be doubtful.

If Congress really means to afford us any relief, let it pass the House bill as it now stands, with the single change that it shall commence from the passage of the act, and not in October last. If the bill is to be of any substantial relief, it ought to be passed with as little delay as possible. The Senate is not composed of architects and builders, and they are hardly competent to enter into a discussion of what is or is not building material. Better leave that question to the officers of the Treasury, who have already had ripe experience in the same business.

THE SOUTH AND ITS AILMENTS.

The majority and minority reports of the Joint Congressional Committee on Southern Outrages are expected to be laid before Congress to-day. Abstracts of these reports have already been furnished the press by telegraph. It is understood that the representatives of the two political parties upon the Committee have exerted themselves to furnish, in their respective reports, a useful campaign document for service during the coming summer and autumn. To this end, the Republican members have amplified upon the Ku-Klux outrages which have unquestionably been perpetrated in South Carolina, making many of their points out of the same old cases which have done such excellent service these three or four years, and afforded a pretext, not only for legislation of questionable constitutionality, but also for local political abuses which outrage all justice, and bring Republicanism into disgrace.

Those political abuses—the tyranny and thievery of the present State Governments of the South—have, in turn, been seized upon by the Democratic minority of the Committee, and held up as a shocking example of the evil fruits of Radicalism,—a term by which they propose to embrace the whole policy of the Republican party. The people would be glad if they could, out of these conflicting statements and still more conflicting inferences, reach a fair conclusion as to the real grievances of the South, the real state of public opinion there, the real responsibility for the troubles which exist, and, hence, the real duty of the nation toward that unfortunate section.

We accept as a fact the admission, by Mr. Bayard and his Democratic colleagues, that outrages of the Ku-Klux order have been perpetrated in forty of the four hundred and twenty counties of the Southern States; and we acknowledge, on the other hand, that these acts, which the respectable element of the old Southern population earnestly deprecate, but which are, nevertheless, commonly charged to their account, are offset by outrages of a less violent, but more dangerous, type on the part of the dominant party in the reconstructed States,—the party which claims to represent the loyal element of the population, and for whose acts the Republican party is, unfortunately, held responsible in a greater or less degree. Mr. Stevenson, and his Republican colleagues upon the Committee, will not deny, for instance, that the carpet-bag legislators and State officers of the reconstructed States have, in addition to burdensome taxation, enormously increased the debts of those States within the past five years, without accumulating any public property, or improvements, or prospects of improvements, to show for the prodigal outlay. It is also a fact beyond question that the present rulers of the South, consisting, for the most part, of strangers,—camp-followers of the two armies of the late war, and other similar characters, having no interests in common with the people whom they ostensibly represent,—have helped themselves to royal salaries, and secured themselves in their places by acts and laws utterly at variance with the principles of Republicanism. In short, the solid, Conservative, and industrial elements of the Southern population have been subjected to a degree of oppression from those who claim to represent the cause of loyalty in that section, which might naturally drive them to join in, or at least connive at, the lawless acts of the "Ku-Klux," of which we have heard so much.

It is evident, nevertheless, that no such disposition is general among the Southern people. Our correspondent who recently visited Louisiana in pursuit of information upon this subject, and who put himself in communication with ex-Confederate officers and soldiers, as well as with carpet-bag Governors and legislators, for the purpose of ascertaining the actual feeling of all classes, found among the former no trace of desire to disrupt the Union or to re-enslave the negro. On the contrary, it is to the Federal Government that most of these people are disposed to look for protection against the local despotism under which they are suffering. It was this feeling which prompted the people of New Orleans, a month ago, to appeal to the President for Federal martial law as a protection against the worse martial law of local tyrants.

The appeal was a mistaken one. The people of Louisiana and the other reconstructed States ought to look to themselves alone for the correction of the existing abuses, the condition being presented that the Federal Government shall let them alone for this purpose: and we are glad to notice that a mass meeting held at New Orleans on Saturday seems to have acknowledged this fact and taken measures accordingly. This meeting effected an organization, passed resolutions, and adopted an address, preparatory to the formation of a new political party, composed of "men of all parties, regardless of color and previous political associations," and having for its object the reform of the laws and of the *personnel* of the State Government. The meeting was called by the Citizens' Association, or Committee of Fifty-one,—an organization modelled after that of the New York Committee of Seventy, and which unquestionably represents the business and industrial interests of New Orleans. This plan has the co-operation of influential men of both the white and colored races, and will undoubtedly be able to command a good portion of the negro vote. It appears to have a great advantage over the late Carter movement, in that it has not, like that, to bear the odium of attempted revolution, nor yet of an unwarrantable interference from disreputable Federal officials. It appears to be, in short, a movement of the people for their own protection, and, as such, it should have the respect and support of all just men.

Thus sought, the remedy is sure to come, sooner or later. It may come slowly, and doubtless will; for the situation is a bad one, and grows in great measure out of the demoralized condition of society itself,—a demoralization resulting from the war, the overturning of old institutions, the conquest of a proud and badly-trained people, and the influx of a horde of military adventurers and fortune-hunters, who, though doubtless an element of good for the future of Southern society, are apparently a source of great evil temporarily. Old pursuits and industries have been broken off, and old notions of honesty and propriety superseded, for the time, by notions much less wholesome. Perhaps nothing could awake the sober senses of the people except to see these corrupted notions bearing their fruit as they are now doing. These causes, once awakened, ought to conduct the Southern people to a way out of their present difficulties. The South wants no more Ku-Klux acts, no more Federal cannon interfering with the State legislation or State political organization. It wants peace, quiet, and a development of its better elements. It wants education. It wants a good, staunch, virtuous opposition party, led by men with clean hands, and which will, if it cannot succeed at the next election, at least afford enough hope of ultimate success to stay all demonstrations of a violent or revolutionary character, and offer a better inducement for virtue in public life than the practice of any existing party in the South can be said to offer. To attempt to cure the evils in the South by any application of Federal authority, or by any remedy which does not work through the public sentiment of the South itself, is like attempting to cure a cancer with a compress.

OUR DIFFICULTY WITH GREAT BRITAIN.

The declaration of the British Government not to submit the question of consequential damages to the Geneva Arbitration, has, of course, given rise to much discussion on this side of the water. It is to be regretted that many of our newspapers have indulged in rather loose and sensational talk about this "unpleasantness." Some seem never to have taken the trouble to examine the treaty regarding this arbitration, others evidently misunderstand its language, and nearly all unwisely or unknowingly misstate the effect which a withdrawal of the submission, on the part of the English Government, would have on the relations between the two nations.

Some journals, which do not at once raise the war-cry, speak, nevertheless, of the fifty thousand Fenians ready to swallow up Canada at any time; of our privateers, which could, in a given case, sweep British commerce from every ocean; of the half a million of veterans who would land near "Dorking" and anticipate Bismarck in wiping out England, from which wild sort of talk their readers will generally see that we must needs be afraid of "perfidious Albion," to listen to our bill of indirect damages" by an instantaneous declaration of war.

And yet this contingency is no nearer now than it was at any time during the six or seven years when we were urging our claims arising from what we are in the habit of calling the British part of the great rebellion. *We* did not go to war when England treated our claim with something like disrespect, to use the mildest term; she did not go to war when at last a treaty of settlement, satisfactory to her, having been concluded by the two Governments, was rejected by our Senate. There is no more reason for going to war now, if the arbitration should fail by Great Britain's withdrawal. Matters would simply remain as they were before.

England has already apologized for what she is charged to have done, or rather had left undone. That cannot be recalled, and that was certainly a diplomatic victory for us, such as is seldom achieved over a first-class nation. In declining to leave the question of consequential damages to the arbitration, she still insists upon the treaty as she interprets it. There is no affront in this. She contends for a different construction from that which the persons who drew up the "American case" appear to have put upon the treaty. She certainly has a right to do so, provided her construction is not so manifestly absurd as to be evidence of bad faith. She may be probably correct. But it is not necessary to settle that point now; suffice it that there is room for a reasonable doubt.

Now let us see how the case would stand in the light of legal analogy: Jonathon's ship is sunk at sea by a collision with John's ship. Jonathan contends that, by John's negligence, his ship was lost, and claims compensation. John denies negligence, but finally agrees to arbitrate. A submission bond (or treaty) is signed by both these parties to submit to the decision of an arbitrator as to negligence and compensation. Both appear, but Jonathan, besides a claim for the value of his ship and cargo, and the freight he would have earned by the trip, contends for indirect or consequential damages, because not being able to procure a new ship for some length of time, he had lost other voyages which he might have made, and by which he might have earned large profits. Or he alleges that, by reason of not having made the freight when he lost his vessel, he could not pay a certain debt, and was therefore put into bankruptcy. Now John has two ways open to him: He may rely on the legal knowledge of the arbitrator, that such speculative and remote damages will not be allowed, and go on with the arbitration; or he may insist that such damages are not nominated in the bond, and refuse to go on. As between individuals, Jonathan has a remedy at law. He sues John on the bond, and, should the Court adopt his construction, he will recover sufficient damages on it to pay him for such loss and damages as he has proved. If the Court is against him, John will not be blamed for his non-submission, and Jonathan must drop his consequential damages before he can demand submission.

Amongst independent nations there is no tribunal to settle the matter, and, if there is an alleged misunderstanding on the agreement as to what was to be submitted, and either of the parties is not willing, to leave the construction of it to the arbitrators, the claim must remain unadjusted until another understanding is arrived at.

As remarked before, the course which England appears determined to pursue cannot in the least be construed into an affront to us as a nation. Political necessities seem to have influenced her in adopting it. She might, with considerable confidence, have trusted to the sound judgment of the Arbitrators. All Courts have, from time immemorial, strongly leaned against damages appearing remote and not susceptible of being calculated with any accuracy. The tenth article of the treaty, providing for a *special* and *several* assessment of the damage each delinquent cruiser may have inflicted, seems to be squarely against damages such as arise from a supposed prolongation of the war, or from a general loss to our commercial marine.

Going to war to collect some $20,000,000 or $25,000,000 (and more the most sanguine may not expect if speculative damages are excluded) would be supreme folly. Our war expenses would amount to that sum in about three weeks, not to speak of the consequential damages of the war itself. For the Anglo-Rebel depredations we might have gone to war, when they were committing, or after the rebellion was ended. To do it now, without a new and very serious offence, or insupportable affront given to our national honor, would be not only ridiculous, but criminal. If there is any warlike talk at the White House, it is, of course, intended for effect on the Presidential nomination, just as much as the bitter denunciation, on the part of Gladstone, of the manner in which the American case has been presented, is to influence the maintenance of his Cabinet. If there was not in England, as well as here, a struggle going on for the retention of power, there would be nothing at all dangerous in this difficulty. But, however Governments may try to implicate and embitter matters for political purposes, the American as well as the English people have sense enough to keep cool, and to maintain, if not friendly, at least peaceful, relations with one another.

THE FREE LIBRARY BILL.

The Free Library bill has at last been amended and put in trim for passage, and we may reasonably presume that it will be passed immediately. The emergency clause has been attached, so that it will become a law from and after its passage, and the Mayor and Common Council will be at liberty to organize the Library Association by the appointment of the proper officials to set its machinery in motion. The bill is substantially the same as that drawn up by the Citizens' Committee; and, in fact, only differs from it in being more detailed and explicit, and containing one or two sections which have been added for the benefit of villages and cities containing less than 100,000 inhabitants. It vests the power in the Mayor of appointing, with the approval of the Council, a Board of nine Directors, to be selected from the citizens at large, with reference to their fitness for such an office, and provides that not more than one member of the City Council shall be a member of the Board at any one time. The manner of election, time of service, and provisions for filling vacancies are the same as in the citizens' bill. The duties and powers of the Board are also the same. A very excellent provision has been added to this section, specifying that all funds received for the Library shall be deposited in the City Treasury, to the credit of the Library Fund, and shall be kept separate and apart from other city moneys, and shall be drawn upon by the proper city officers only upon the properly-authenticated vouchers of the Library Board. The bill also makes every library established under the act forever free to the use of the inhabitants of the city where it is located, subject to such conditions as the Board shall establish, and gives the Common Council power to pass ordinances imposing suitable penalties for the punishment of persons committing any injury upon the library or its grounds and other property, and for injury to, or failure to return, any book belonging to the Library.

In all its provisions, the bill seems to be an admirable one, and calculated to make the Library a great public blessing. It is hedged about with sufficient safeguards to protect it, and its Board has been clothed with the requisite authority to administer it to the satisfaction and best interests of the city. Assuming the passage of the bill as a fact beyond the shadow of a doubt, the only responsibility that remains attaches to the appointment of the Board of Directors. Care should be exercised, and ample time taken, to select citizens for this purpose who are specially qualified, both in executive ability and literary attainments, to exercise their important privileges with intelligence and ability. The Board having been appointed, the selection of a site for the Library is the first question of importance which will come before them, and in this connection we renew our suggestion that the old Post Office location is eminently desirable, and, to secure it, action must be taken at once, as the proposition is already entertained by the authorities at Washington to convert the recent Post Office into a bonded warehouse. No better place for a Library can be found in the city. It will help the Library movement in this particular if the Legislature will pass the bill at once.

The site of the new Government buildings having been definitely settled, and the "Bigelow block" selected for that purpose, and the transaction having been consummated by the Secretary of the Treasury in good faith, it would be unwise for the Common Council, or any body of citizens, to offer any opposition thereto. It appears to us that the spirit of the law was not fully complied with, and that the Secretary, in his eagerness to save the difference in price between the two blocks, overlooked the intent of the act of Congress, which was to take the old square, if it could be obtained "at a fair and reasonable price for the ground,"—that is, at its true value. Its true value was ascertained by a judicial proceeding to be $1,667,000. At this point the Secretary substituted his own opinion as to the reasonableness of the price for that of the sworn Commissioners (as he had the right to do), and bought the other block. If no other block had been offered to him, it is very likely that the price fixed by the Commissioners would have been judged by him to be a fair and reasonable price for the ground.

There has been no imputation cast upon Secretary Boutwell's good faith in the premises, however, and there is no room for such imputation. Nor is it presumed that Mr. Winston made anything more than a fair commission (if so much) by his agency in effecting the sale. As regards the vacation of Quincy street, which is quite narrow at that place, it would be idle for the City Government to offer any opposition to it. In any event, it would only be necessary for the Government to condemn the ground embraced in it, and thus acquire title where it already has jurisdiction. It would, nevertheless, be no more than fair for the Government to give the ground occupied by the old square to the city for a Public Library, in exchange for the 12,000 square feet of ground embraced in Quincy street. We apprehend that the platting and recording of the street through the centre of the Bigelow Block amounts to a dedication; and the rule in this State is, that the ownership of the fee of public streets and alleys is in the city.

The resolution lately introduced by Senator Sumner proposes an investigation into two matters: first, whether we violated the laws of neutrality during the Franco-German war; second, whether the alleged discrepancy of nearly $2,000,000 between the accounts of the War and Treasury Departments really exists. The official report of the Secretary of War gives the receipts from the sale of ordnance stores, during 1870, as $10,000,000. The official report of the Secretary of the Treasury acknowledges the receipt, from the same source, during the same time, of $8,356,170.76. The apparent deficit of over $1,700,000 is certainly a very fair field for investigation. The other subject, our alleged violation of neutrality laws, is something which it is our interest just now to be careful about. We must avoid glass-houses when we are heaving such large stones at our neighbor across the ocean. The two objects sought, then, are certainly at first sight praiseworthy. Opposition to the investigation should be well-grounded. Yet the speeches of those who oppose the investigation simply ring the changes on two stereotypes: first, there is no discrepancy, and if there is, there is no fraud; second, as long as the Prussian Government does not complain, we may violate the neutrality laws as much as we wish, and any man who proposes an investigation is, first, an enemy of the Administration; second, a Prussian spy; and, third, a French spy. This peculiar combination of pursuits is somewhat remarkable. How, when the interests of the two countries are diametrically opposed, one and the same man could serve as spy for both, it is difficult to see.

The Non-Conformists of England have held a Conference at Manchester, to devise remedies for the oppressive working of the Education bill of 1870. It is evident that, if the Hon. Mr. Forster has not succeeded in educating the children of Great Britain, he has educated the Dissenters. When the bill became a law, these latter were firm in their support of the clause which allowed the endowment of denominational schools. They see their mistake now. The Established Church swept down on the many little folds like a wolf. In half of England, education is wholly in her hands. Just before the Conference, Cardinal Cullen, of Dublin, with a rare talent for blundering, put a most powerful weapon in the Non-Conformists' hands by demanding that the Catholic Church shall have the same control of the schools of Ireland that the Episcopal Church has of those of England. The demand is strictly just, as the law now stands, and its flabbergast promulgation has awakened against the bill not only the whole strength of the Dissenters, but of the anti-Ultramontane sentiment of England. With such strong support, the Manchester Conference attracted much attention. Its proceedings were admirable. The mistake of having supported the obnoxious clause allowing national endowment of sectarian schools was frankly admitted, and it was declared to be the belief of the Dissenters of England that national education must be entirely secular, and religious education entirely voluntary. One or two indiscreet attempts to form a "third party" were promptly voted down. "We can do what we choose," said one of their leaders, "if we can but be moderate. We shall do nothing if we go to extremes." It is a good sign of the decay of those logical hates in Great Britain that not a single speech charged any particular sect, Catholic, Episcopal, or any other, with taking unfair advantages. Unless bad management ruins a good cause, we may expect to see important changes in the Education bill during the present session of Parliament,—provided, indeed, that the Alabama claims' war-cloud blows over, and schemes for killing men give way to schemes for educating them.

Charges of a peculiar nature have been brought against the Managers of the Boston Asylum for the Blind. Usually, when such institutions are found to have inefficient officials, investigation reveals a shocking state of moral and physical miasma. In the Hub, the very reverse is the truth. It is claimed that the inmates of the Asylum are unduly instructed in the Scriptures, etc., having enormous lessons to learn by heart; and that the managers are such firm believers in the doctrine of cleanliness in its relation to godliness that they force each and every scholar, sick or well, to plunge into an ice-cold bath at some barbarous hour in the morning. The shock to sensitive systems is said to have caused serious sickness in some cases, and, a few months since, a small boy hung himself in his room in order to escape from this world of woe and cold water. Evidently, however praiseworthy it may be to give a cup of cold water to one of the little ones, a bath-tub-full diminishes the goodness of the deed.

The Cultusminister of Prussia, Herr von Muehler, against whom there has been such an outcry, has resigned his position. When he was called to the Cabinet, in 1862, he was supposed to be a liberal-minded man, who would be ready to give a fair trial to new ideas. His office and his wife spelled him. Adelheid von Muehler has practically ruled for a decade the whole school and Church policy of Prussia. She has enjoyed, with her husband, the reputation of being the best-hated couple in Europe; and the downfall of the two is hailed with the liveliest joy. The *Nation* quotes a leading German newspaper as saying: "Heinrich and Adelheid—Herr von Mueller and his wife—are laid with the dead. A ten years' *regime*, for which it would be hard to find a parallel in Prussian history, so strange and pernicious was it, has come to an end."

THE NORTHWEST.

ILLINOIS.

The Rock Island Railroad Company will establish a round-house and machine-shop near the new cattle yards at Geneseo.

—The ground about Jacksonville is frozen to the depth of two feet.

—The Hon. Joel Cory, Sr., one of the oldest and most influential men of Jersey County, died Tuesday last. His funeral was attended on the 15th inst., from the Baptist Church in Jerseyville, and there was the largest attendance ever witnessed in that place. The Rev. Dr. Bulkley, of Upper Alton, preached the sermon, and was assisted by the Rev. John W. Phillips, of the Methodist Church, and the Reverend Dr. King, of the First Presbyterian Church.

IOWA.

It is proposed to bridge the Cedar River at Muscatine, at a cost of $25,000.

WISCONSIN.

The schooner Toledo has gone to Annapie with goods for the burnt district.

—Scarlet fever, in a very malignant form, prevails in Elma, and many children are falling victims to its ravages.

—The Oshkosh *Times* says Mr. Fuss, proprietor of the Fuss House, at Menasha, I was thought to have died on the 8th inst., and preparations were made for the burial. The funeral was postponed until the 9th, when the undertaker was ordered to get the last rites for the departed. Just before the coffin was closed, some of the friends noticed that the supposed corpse was perspiring quite freely. A physician was called in, who proceeded to bleed the man, when the blood flowed, and he soon came to, and recognized the anxious mourners. He is now doing well, and is in a fair way of recovery.

—The work of widening Main street was commenced last week by James Hamilton and a crew of men in the employ of the Keshena Improvement Company. The "Delle" are located on Wolf River, about twenty miles above Shawano. They are about 100 feet high, 400 feet long, and only 14 feet wide, while the water is some 66 or 70 feet deep.

—The Green Bay *Advocate* says: "Mr. David Soper, who is tearing down the old fort magazine in Fort Howard, handed us, as a relic of that institution, one of the spikes which were taken from the floor when it was taken up. It is of copper, three and one-half inches long. It was driven in 1823, or thereabouts, when the magazine was built.

—A new settlement of about forty families is about effected, in the town of Angelica, Shawano County.

—Stony Creek is the name of a new lumbering village which has been lately established on the lake shore, six miles north of Ahnapee.

INDIANA.

Three cases of spotted fever occurred at Dayton in one day.

—The tusks, weighing 141 pounds, of the deceased elephant Tippoo Saib, have been shipped from Cincinnati to New York.

—There is now living at Evansville a Mrs. Justina Schmidt, who is 99 years of age, having been born in Germany in 1779. Mrs. Schmidt was married in 1799, came to Evansville in 1849, and has raised a family of nine children. In addition to these children she has thirty-eight grandchildren, and forty-four great-grandchildren.

MICHIGAN.

Sandstone of a fine grain has been found near Flushing.

—Manistee is to build a new swing bridge at a cost of $16,000.

—Fort Wayne men propose to furnish the city of Lansing with gas at $2.50 per 1,000 feet, and supply the citizens at $3.00.

—The Detroit *Post* of Feb. 16 says: "Albert S. Van Alstyne, of Detroit, was partially examined before Commissioner Davison yesterday on a charge of fraudulent importation of lubricating oil. It appears that in July last he purchased in Canada a considerable quantity of petroleum tar for coloring purposes, to be used in laying wood pavements, though it appears that a portion of it was subsequently used for lubricating purposes in a rolling mill. This was imported at Port Huron, and the Customs officers claim that the material imported contained too large a per centage of oil to permit it to pass as residuum or petroleum tar. The analysis of it is to be submitted as part of the evidence in the case, and for the purpose of getting expert testimony an adjournment was had until the 20th inst."

PERSONAL.

Christian Wiebal, one of the leading spirits of the colony of Icarites near New Philadelphia, O., died last week.

—Queen Victoria's private fortune is £3,000,000, and her annual income £385,000.

—The complimentary entertainment given the Misses Stuart, at Hartford, on Tuesday evening, netted between $16,000 and $17,000.

—It is a strange historical fact that a cousin of Mrs. O'Leary owned the calf that dug up Nilson's diamonds in Missouri.

—Pierre Tessillo, of Chambly, Canada, died last week, at the age of 106 years. He was born in Palermo, Sicily, in 1765, and served in the wars of Napoleon in Spain and Austria. He leaves a wife 67 years old, and some five or six children.

—John McHugh, a Memphis boy 15 years old, fell through a hatchway in that city, on Thursday, a distance of 70 feet. Although he dislocated his right wrist and cut his face and forehead, he received no very serious internal injuries.

—At Memphis, Feb. 6, Captain John Cowdon presented to Admiral Possiet, of the Russian navy, the plans, specifications, and drawings that gave origin to the construction of the Confederate rams Arkansas, Virginia, and Tennessee.

—In 1847, Henry Ward Beecher, then pastor of the Second Presbyterian Church, Indianapolis, ran a salary of $400, placed himself in nomination before the Directory for the Presidency of the Madison & Indianapolis Railroad. On the twenty-seventh ballot the election resulted in favor of the late Governor Brough, of Ohio.

—A man in Utica, N. Y., who killed another in a drunken brawl, has been sentenced to Auburn Prison for four years, as guilty of manslaughter in the third degree; while a schoolmate of his has been sentenced by the same Court to the same prison for five years for stealing a pair of shoes.

—The Leavenworth *Times* confesses to a positive liking for Brother Hammond, saying: "He is as full of life and activity as George Francis Train, as indomitable as Andy Johnson, and as persistent as a life insurance agent. He is a firm believer in the power of the press, and makes a liberal use of printer's ink."

—Mrs Susanna Gould, of Isle La Motte, Vt., is 97 years of age. She sees well without glasses, and her intellectual powers are well preserved. When she was 92 she spun, after the fashion of our grandmothers' times, thirty knots a day; a year ago she walked quite firmly, though lately her step shows that she is getting weary of her load of years. She remembers well the battle of Bennington, and tells many thrilling incidents connected with that skirmish.

—The Sandusky *Register* of Feb. 18 says: "Mrs Caroline Sawyer, who is the defendant in a suit of alienation of affections, which was tried in our Common Pleas Court on Wednesday, is a woman of uncommon grit, as will see the following: Determined to be on hand in time for the opening of Court, she arose at 3 o'clock Wednesday morning, and walked the whole distance from her residence to this city, some fourteen miles, and arrived here as about 9 o'clock. Considering the intense cold and the hard roads, Mrs. Sawyer may be accounted a woman of nerve."

—Patrick Gilmore, of Boston Peace Jubilee notoriety, is an Irishman by birth, and enlisted when a boy in the British army, where he obtained his musical and the principal portion of his education. While his regiment was stationed in Canada he came to the conclusion that he had played "God Save the Queen" long enough so he crossed over to Buffalo, N. Y., without asking permission of the British authorities. He afterward visited Boston, which city he has since made his home, where he formed a brass band and projected a series of cheap and popular promenade concerts, from which he doubtless conceived the idea of his monster musical peace jubilee.

RAILROADS.

Mr. Ridgeway, of Shawneetown, President of the Springfield & Illinois Southern Railroad, states that the gaps between the Western and South western Divisions will be completed within thirty days, and the communication will then be unbroken between the Illinois and Ohio Rivers.

—A writer in the *Medical Times and Gazette* refers to the fatigue of the limbs produced after a long railway journey as due mainly to the trembling motion of the floor under the feet, and states that, having suffered considerably from this abuse, he was induced to try the well-known air-cushion as a foot-stool. This answered so well that he has never travelled without using one in this way, and found the effect to be a remarkable improvement.

—The general officers of the Southern Minnesota Railroad have been removed to Wells.

—A. D. LaDue, one of the early settlers of La Crosse, has been appointed General Superintendent of the Kansas City, Memphis & Mobile Railroad. Seventy miles of this road are now built and in operation.

—The Portland *Press* understands upon good authority that the Portland, Rutland, Oswego & Chicago Railroad Company intends to apply to the State Legislature for a loan of the city of Portland's credit for $2,500,000.

—The managers of the Rensselaer & Saratoga Railroad will in a short time lay a track across Green Island to connect their track from Albany with the depot in Troy. In order to make this connection they have leased the right of way across the Central Railroad bridge spanning the Mohawk.

—Rochester, Minn., will donate to the Davenport & St. Paul Railroad $100,000 in twenty-year bonds.

—The new passenger depot of the Northwestern Road at Cedar Rapids is completed to occupancy. It is built of brick on the ground occupied by the old one burned down.

—The question of a railroad from Seymour to Woodbury, Conn., is being agitated. The Naugatuck Railroad have offered to build the road, provided $250,000 can be raised from the towns through which it passes. It is expected Woodbury will subscribe quite liberally. The cost of building the road is estimated at $200,000.

Meeting of the Illinois Woman-Suffrage Association.

BLOOMINGTON, Ill., Feb. 16.

To the Editor of The Chicago Tribune:

SIR: Bloomington has been enjoying a genuine sensation for the past few days in the shape of a Woman-Suffrage Convention.

On the morning of the 13th inst., myself and friends repaired to the Opera House to witness the arrival of the strong-minded. At a little before 11 o'clock a slight commotion arose, a rustle of silks was heard, and, led by Mrs. Fernando Jones, of Chicago, a number of ladies ascended the platform.

Were these the conventional strong-minded of whom we had heard so much? Where were the Bloomer costumes, the vests, and neckties, the coon hats, the flow of dress and manner, that have constituted the material for years from which to make up sensational newspaper articles?

All these were missing, and, in their stead, were beautiful, refined, and cultivated women, attired in the latest mode.

Had it not been for the veteran warrior for the rights of women, Lucretia Mott, who, although she should have pronounced these ladies quite the reverse of strong-minded; and, she, at best, though healthful, is feeble with the weakness of the tyrant man, has so far surrendered to the Goddess of Fashion as to wear flounces and furbelows.

After a fluttering and settling of wings, which is as much a perquisite of femininity as of butterflies, Mrs. Gowrylock, the local leader of Mrs. Jones, the Vice President of the State Association.

After singing, prayer was offered by the Rev. Dr. Ferguson.

Mrs. Alma Van Winkle presented the Secretary's report, which showed great progress in the good cause during the past year.

The Treasurer's report showed the Society to be excellently financed, the receipts in the Treasurer owning the Society, that body owed her to the extent of $50.

The report being accepted, various speeches were made, to the effect that women were a degraded, proscribed, and much-abused class, and that the ladies must excuse them; that they meant well by them, and, when they were a little over their hurry, and had secured their fees and salaries, the ladies must would consider whether women had any rights which men were bound to respect."

Up to this time nothing went on smoothly, although it might appear to a casual observer that the ladies were very much ruffled. Now came a member of the male persuasion, and introduced a series of resolutions; and who does not know that this always makes trouble,—in fact, they seem to be meant for that special purpose!

One of these obnoxious resolutions claimed the right of suffrage for women under the Fourteenth Amendment. Mrs. Chipman, of the Bloomington Canning Company, a chief opponent of the bill, earnestly protesting against its signature on general principles, for the same reasons in regard to the objection to the word sex, etc., that had been urged against the bill in the Legislature, and further, that "its passage had been urged by the most formidable paid lobby and the most extraordinary appliances ever known in the history of legislation, and more than all, the result was achieved by bribery and corruption, attempts at which were proven by the Investigating Committee, Mr. Wilcox, of Chicago, to be well known;" and that "no semblance of unlawful means have been nor can be shown on the part of the opponents of the bill;" claiming that the failure of a large community, sound public policy, vindication of the purity of legislation, and rebuke of corruption demanded that the bill should be vetoed. *Third*, a letter from the Hon. S. A. Pease, of Marquette County, in which he advised the veto of the bill, because he believed corruption had been used in its passage, and thought the dignity and reputation of the State, and the rebuke of corruption, demanded a veto. *Fourth*, affidavits of John Shealy and W. Fitzpatrick, a couple of saloon-keepers of this city, that one Patrick Galagan, a member from Lafayette County, had said he knew where there was money for him that he could get for voting for the bill. *Fifth*, a letter from Senator B. U. Strong, of Sauk County, in which he stated that he had been approached by the friends of the bill and offered a sum of money—$2,000—to make a favorable report of the bill with Senator Morgan, and vote for it. These documents, with their positive assertions, constituted a much stronger pressure on the Governor than to take the course he did than was supposed at the time. The Committee proceed to state the efforts made to remove the Governor's objection, especially the name of Mr. Isaacson, an incorporator, shown to have attempted to influence a member's vote who wanted money, by offering him one, and how these efforts were thwarted. They then give the veto, and repeat the statements of members who signed the legislative protest, when catechised in the Assembly, and all of whom testified that they knew of no members being bribed.

The report then proceeds to state the result of their investigation they were required to make as to rumors of corruption used to secure the passage of the bill in 1870, and their conclusion from the testimony that there was just cause for any charge or suspicion against the Legislature or any part against any member or members thereof, in their consideration and action on said bill, and all reports to the contrary are false and malicious.

As to charges of corruption and bribery in the action on the bill in 1871, the Committee, after vindicating the propriety of an investigation, deny the charges that, if true, the guilty might be punished. They say that calumny might be branded, say they have sought to make the investigation thorough and searching; they had summoned every man the burnt district is a small a portion of the whole lumber supply, that I took it for granted no one would suspect the lumbermen of opposition on that score.

The lumbermen need no defence at my hands. They, in many instances, since the fire, furnished the Relief Society lumber at old prices unsolicited, they have given nearly $6,000 out of $7,000 contributed in money this winter; and for the past years they have been the heaviest contributors to the regular Relief fund.

As this is a personal letter, I may be permitted to say that I never had any interest in a lumber yard in Chicago. That, at the present time, I had not a foot of lumber here, or elsewhere, nobody now knows. Nor have I had a foot in Chicago since the fire. That, for the coming season, my interest in lumber is very small. Announcements have been made of largely upper qualities,—a kind not brought from Canada to this market. I give it as a business opinion that the Relief bill will be closed up long before lumber would not injure me at all. On the contrary, by promoting building, I think it would help me as well as others. Now, before I close, I will add, that before I conclude my share (with others) of doing equally as much) in the relief work of this winter, the direct question will not be less than $20,000, to say nothing of indirect losses resulting from being compelled to decline business, in a cumulative practice like the law.

For ten years I have tried to be faithful in the ordinary Relief work of this city. I hoped I was in the path of duty when, in 1871, I had not in vain tried to serve this community. During the past winter, I have worked day and night,—day, often far into the morning, and have not calculated to rebuke selfishness, and teach awful lessons to the perishableness of earthly possessions,—except that I would forever have been forgetfulness to a harder man than I have supposed I was. Now, Heaven forbid that my influence, whatever it is, should be thrown into the scale against any just measure to aid this people in rescuing from the blackened ruins of our city their former homes.

WIRT DEXTER.

CHICAGO, Feb. 17.

Mr. Wirt Dexter and the Chicago Relief Bill.

To the Editor of The Chicago Tribune:

SIR: I have been urged by many friends to depart from a rule laid down at the beginning of the Relief work, which was to make no reply to matters personal to myself that might appear in the press,—and to state my course upon the Relief bill.

About four weeks since, Mr. T. W. Harvey, a well-known lumberman of this city,—who has given a great deal of intense and valuable labor to this community in the Relief work,—said to me that it was proposed by Congress to admit all lumber arriving at the Port of Chicago free of duty, and requested that I write Senator Ferry upon the subject. I at once wrote Mr. Ferry a personal, unofficial letter,—perhaps not sufficiently guarded. But it was written under the impression that all lumber coming to Chicago was to be admitted free of duty. Afterwards Mr. Harvey said to me that the bill was all right, as it provided for a rebate of duty only upon lumber used in the burnt district, by persons who had been burned out. This was our rule in the Shelter Committee. I dismissed the subject from my mind, and in no way took any further action, except to subsequently telegraph Senator Ferry as follows: "If confined to those living who have been burned out, our lumbermen are in favor of it."

I am not in a habit of being driven by any amount of public disapproval from opinions that I actually hold, and the charges that, if true, the guilty might be punished. Calumny might be branded, say they have sought to make the investigation thorough and searching; had summoned every man believed to have any knowledge upon the subject, including 146 witnesses; having held meetings in Madison, Milwaukee, Eau Claire, and Chippewa Falls. A few important witnesses failed to appear, and the Committee had no power to compel them. The report states:

It is a fact, that, in the whole progress of the investigation, every member of the Legislature, every officer, attorney, and lobbyist, so far as known, was present at the passage of the bill, at the session of 1871, at one time or another, before the Committee and gave his testimony, and that every witnesses, who, although subpœnaed, have neglected to appear before the Committee. The Assembly debated the resolution of the Assembly to this effect for some time to-day, and from the, on motion of a member who thought there had been enough investigation, and that the good name of former Legislatures had been sufficiently vindicated, the whole subject was tabled, and that ends the matter. It was a significant fact that the friends of the bill were anxious to continue the investigation, and its opponents desirous of dropping the matter where it was, and there is some chuckling among the five interested parties who escaped being called to testify.

CONGRESSIONAL APPORTIONMENT.

The Congressional Apportionment report, which was all agreed on, is "busted," and a new Fox River District is now talked of, which will improve the arrangement.

PLUS.

A Singular Phenomenon.

From the Bloomington (Ill.) Leader.

A few days ago we published an account of an accident at Springfield, by which Wm. Daniels, of Normal, was deprived of his hand. It seems that Mr. Daniels did not know that his hand had been cut off until he got to the light. He thought his wrist had been bruised, probably by falling on the track. Imagine his surprise at finding his hand gone. After his wrist had been assisted and his arm dressed, he complained that his thumb was pressed down in an uncom

THE MAGAZINES.

...eam of the Monthlies for February.

...mond-Cutting at Amsterdam---Lilly's Prediction of the Great London Fire.

...gers and Music---California Wines---Oregon Salmon---The Pugnacity of Henry Clay.

...---A Charitable World---The Detective in the Grand-Jury Room ---Page in His Studio.

HARPER'S MONTHLY.

Harper's Magazine for March is an unusually interesting number, and contains many pictorial papers which are particularly valuable. Jessie Henri Browne, in his second paper on "Holland and the Hollanders," contains many interesting facts, from which we take the following on

DIAMOND CUTTING.

Diamond-cutting has long been a specialty of Amsterdam, and was, at one time, almost entirely in the hands of the Jews, who, as they are still a large city, are entirely in the possession and under the control of Jews, nearly 10,000 of whom are employed in these establishments. There diamonds and other precious stones are cut and polished for all the jewelers of Europe—Antwerp being the only competitor Amsterdam has in this particular branch of trade. Unless you are a diamond cutter, you have no trouble in obtaining access to the mills, the largest of which are only worked by steam engines.

The art of cutting and polishing is supposed to have originated in India at a very early period, and was introduced into Europe by Louis de Berquen, about the middle of the fifteenth century. It is accordingly discovered, and lost for a month or two, by another of Berquen's children, and by their mother as well, much to the latter's disgust. The oldest, is about fifteen years old, and her name is Alice. She is very intelligent, remembers quite well having been taught at home. She is nearly an hour in hopes that she may be allowed to go with one of her parents in society some evening, but, where she is not certain. She cannot remember the name of the city, but states that she has been to a theatre, where, in the course of the performance, the scenery was changed, by means of cars, or stone sidewalks, so that a solid mass could be seen at one time, and that they got through with the change in a very few minutes. She remembered seeing a number of very often, and is sure that she would be able to recognize them at their nearest neighbor, did not the fact of her playing with any other children, and that the grocery where she usually went was on a different block

LETTERS FROM THE PEOPLE.

A Railroad Super Company.

To the Capitalists and Real Estate-Owners of Chicago:

The present time is unquestionably the most important epoch in the history of this city. While the attention of every one is directed to the re-building of our magnificent business palaces, our attention is also demanded to a subject of more vital importance to our future welfare; it is no less a matter than the demand made upon us by fifteen railroads for an entrance into the city; and, while the Common Council are meeting to devise ways for their entry, would it not be well for us to take more interest in the matter, looking at and handling it in a more *practical* manner?

The purchase of a right of way into any part of this city is an expense which cannot be inserted by any of these roads at its proper value; and the probability is, that all the efforts which the Common Council may make will be to no avail, for they have no power to *act*, or rather, they have not sufficient power to be able to benefit these roads in their present condition. They cannot buy a right of way, and operate it as a corporation, for the benefit of the city; nor have they the power to purchase a right of way, and present it to any of these roads.

Now, let us look at this in a *business light*. A right of way, with sufficient depots and grounds, into any part of this city, will cost from $5,000,000 to $2,000,000; and none of these roads are rich enough to make such an investment; and, were they, it would not be wise to allow *one* road to control such right of way.

Cannot the real estate owners, and those most directly interested in the welfare of this part of the city, take the matter into their own hands and push it to completion? My idea is, to organize a *Depot Company*, similar to that already in successful operation at Pittsburgh and Indianapolis. And here "let me rise to explain" what a Depot Company is. The Company owning the grounds and tracks; and, in this city, it would be necessary for the depot to be located six or eight miles outside of the city, to some point where it would be convenient for these other roads to make connections.

As all the money needed to be expended would be, say, $2,000,000, a Company could be organized with a capital stock of $2,000,000, *one-half paid up*, issuing bonds for $1,000,000, running ten years, at 8 per cent, which would be readily negotiable, as they would be secured on real estate worth $5,000,000.

With this capital, we would be enabled to purchase a right of way extend outside of the city six or eight miles, grade, lay down tracks, and build sufficient freight and passenger depots for the ample accommodation of *four* roads. Through the city the tracks could be sunk *seven* feet below the grade, and then have good sewerage accommodations. This would enable viaducts to be erected at streets where they could easily and would be slight, causing very little damage to surrounding property. Trains could then to run at full speed through the city.

Looking at it as a *real estate* investment in itself, outside of the benefit it would be to the city and real estate in general, it is far superior to any investment which can be made in real estate by a private individual on a smaller scale.

This right of way can be cheaply obtained; and as the property through which any right of way could run is being built up very rapidly, and any Company wishing to purchase a right of way would have to pay full prices for all buildings on lands, the value of said buildings would not be worth more than one-sixth their actual cost to the Company, therefore the gain to a Company purchasing a right of way would be the value of the property through which they would run in unimproved, would be equal to the rise in value of the property (as it would be a gain in a continuous line as it separate), and they would also gain the value of the buildings which would either have to be built over or torn down. The latter noted would of course run through the cheapest property, the buildings that would naturally be erected thereon more than equal the increased cost value of the land.

The advantages to be derived from this right of way being owned by a Depot Company, rather than by a Railroad Corporation, are many. It is a well-known fact among railway officials that, where two or more companies are compelled to the same track and occupy the same grounds, there is continually trouble arising between them in regard to the rights of each other, and the same trouble